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PATENT  
0033-0785P

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W. Lawson  
4/27/04

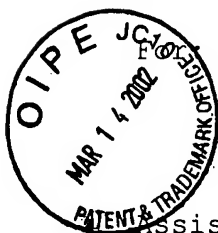
IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: MATSUURA, Syuuji Conf.:  
Appl. No.: 10/046,300 Group:  
Filed: January 16, 2002 Examiner:  
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L E T T E R

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

March 14, 2002

Sir:

Under the provisions of MPEP § 2001.06(b), the Examiner is hereby advised of the following co-pending U.S. Application(s):

<u>Appl. No.</u>	<u>Filing Date</u>	<u>Group</u>
09/981,925	October 19, 2001	
09/556,099	April 20, 2000	
09/782,257	February 14, 2001	

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The subject matter contained in the above-listed co-pending U.S. application(s) may be deemed to relate to the present application, and thus may be material to the prosecution of this instant application.

Copies of cited U.S. patent application(s) (specification, claims, and the drawings) or copies of the portion of the application which caused it to be cited, including any claims directed to that portion are attached hereto.

Appl. No. 10/046,300

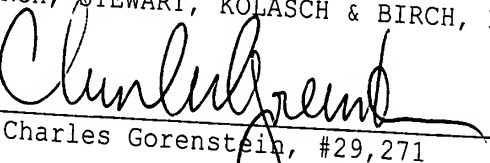
☐ The materials in the envelope are considered trade secrets and are being submitted for consideration under MPEP § 724.

The above-listed co-pending application(s) is(are) not to be construed as prior art. By bringing the above-listed application(s) to the attention of the Examiner, Applicant(s) do(does) NOT waive any confidentiality concerning the above-listed co-pending application(s) or this application. See MPEP § 101. Furthermore, if said application(s) should not mature into patents, such application(s) should be preserved in secrecy under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 122 and 37 C.F.R. § 1.14.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fee required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
Charles Gorenstein, #29,271

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